

# Landscape Ecology and Spatial Analysis Tools Workgroup

A New Forum for EPA Landscape Ecology, Geography, and Spatial Analysis Users

Luis E. Fernandez, Office of International Affairs

K. Bruce Jones , Office of Research and Development



# The Audience / The Need

Currently, EPA personnel either using or interested in methods involving landscape ecology applications, spatial analytic tools, spatial decision support systems, simulation models and methodologies grounded in physical geography lack a forum that can aid in:

- communicating with like-minded colleagues within EPA
- exchanging knowledge and building on the expertise already existing within the Agency
- finding resources that can help find relevant information quickly, and assisting in staying current on new developments outside the Agency.



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# Goals

The goals of the Landscape Ecology and Spatial Analysis Workgroup are to :

- provide a communication forum for EPA personnel currently using or interested in landscape ecology applications, spatial tools, and models etc.
- provide a virtual showcase and technology transfer “trading floor” for Landscape Ecology related applications, spatial tools and models.
  - Information that enables and facilitates transfer of application, tools and models across the Agency would be promoted.
- provide members comprehensive and evolving set of landscape ecology related resources.



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# Proposed Activities

- **Landscape Ecology Communication Forum**
  - Monthly conference calls
  - Semi Annual meetings to coincide with the EPA GIS workgroup meeting.
- **Virtual Showcase / Technology Transfer “trading floor”**
  - Establish a dedicated Web/QuickPlace gateway for tool showcasing, download, and database access
  - Provide a site for connecting tool developers with a willing beta version testing community to speed up new tool development
- **Landscape Ecology and Spatial Analysis Tool related resources**

Establish A Web/QuickPlace what would any or all of the following:

  - A Who's Who list of member to enable better recognition and communication
  - Registry of LE tools and applications with relevant key words
  - A virtual list of LE “consultants” (i.e. members who volunteer to be contacted for advice on topics related to Landscape Ecology etc).
  - An evolving list of relevant literature



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# Implementation/Next Steps

- **Establishing the Group structure**
  - Freestanding workgroup or Subgroup under EPA GIS Workgroup?
  - Drawing up Mission/charter/strategy
- **Setting up a Web Presence**
  - OEI site or website under the GIS workgroup?
- **First Meeting Date**
  - Date and location synchronized with GIS workgroup meeting
- **Needs Analysis** (Ron Landy/ Region 3)
- **First Version of Site targeted for September 2005**
- **User Based and User Driven Initiative**
  - Contents and development comes from the Membership



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# More Information

Please contact:

- Bruce Jones (ORD) [jones.bruce@epa.gov](mailto:jones.bruce@epa.gov)
- Luis Fernandez (OIA) [fernandez.luis@epa.gov](mailto:fernandez.luis@epa.gov)



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